

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: CO-100-2006-062 DNA

CASE FILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0501181/04068

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of the ten-year grazing lease for the North Big Bottom Allotment #04068 licensed to James and Kathleen Mitchell, expiring on February 28, 2007.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

See allotment map, Attachment 1

North Big Bottom
Allotment #04068

T. 6N, R. 91W, Sec.18: S1/2 SE¼
40 BLM Acres
120 Private Acres
160 Total Acres

APPLICANT: James and Kathleen Mitchell

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Renew the ten year grazing lease for James and Kathleen Mitchell, operator #0501181, for the North Big Bottom Allotment #04068, expiring February 28, 2007. This lease would be renewed under Section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended (43 USC 1752). The new grazing lease would expire February 28, 2017. This renewal would involve voluntary non-use of all active AUM's until control is gained on the Russian knapweed which is present throughout the drainage within the public lands on this allotment. Voluntary non-use would cease when the lessee, in cooperation with Moffat County, achieves enough reduction in Russian knapweed to allow the allotment to be useable for livestock again.

This lease would be renewed with the same class of livestock, season of use, and total AUM's as the expiring lease, which is as follows:

Allotment	Livestock	Grazing Period		%PL	AUMs
<u>Name and #</u>	<u># and kind</u>	<u>Begin</u>	<u>End</u>		
North Big Bottom #04068	2 Cattle	06/01	08/30	100	6

The following special term and condition would apply:

1) Voluntary non-use of all 6 AUMs is allowed until adequate control of Russian knapweed on the allotment is achieved. The lessee will coordinate Russian knapweed control with Moffat County. All use of pesticides on public lands will require BLM approval of a Pesticide Use Proposal prior to treatment.

The Standard and Common Terms and Conditions would apply: see Attachment 2.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Final RMP/EIS, September 1986

Draft RMP/EIS, February 1986

Other Documents:

Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado

Date Approved: February 12, 1997

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as Amended (43 USC 1752)

Rangeland Reform Final Environmental Impact Statement, December 1994.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions.

The Proposed Action implements the Resource Management Plan Livestock Grazing Management objective on page 10 of the ROD to improve range conditions through proper utilization of key forage plants and adjust livestock stocking rates. Also, as stated on page 11 of the ROD, the goal of the livestock management program is to improve the rangeland forage resource by managing toward a desired plant community, and states "In the future, allotment categorization, levels of management, and lease modifications could be made if additional information suggests that this is warranted in order to achieve or make significant progress toward achieving the Colorado Standards for Rangeland Health" (43 CFR 4180). The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5

BLM 1617.3). The proposed action of renewal of the grazing lease is in conformance with the Little Snake RMP/ROD.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), Little Snake Resource Area, November 15, 1990

Standard Terms and Conditions (See Attachment 2).

FLPMA, Section 402 as amended (43 USC 1752).

Colorado Public Land Health Standards, Decision Record & Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment, March 1997.

Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado
Date Approved: February 12, 1997

Rangeland Reform Final Environmental Impact Statement, December 1994.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Yes. The North Big Bottom Allotment #04068 was analyzed in the RMP/EIS (Appendix 8, Section 15, page A8-4) and was designated as a “C”, or custodial allotment. The Proposed Action is within the parameters of the Livestock Grazing Management Objectives and planned actions on pages 10 and 11 of the RMP/ROD.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. Multiple use alternatives analyzed in the valid NEPA documents are still appropriate. The voluntary non-use that is proposed is in response to deteriorating range conditions as exhibited by an abundant Russian knapweed conforms to all applicable NEPA documents. [Current condition of the allotment, represents resource concerns] therefore non-use is not only necessary, but is needed to facilitate herbicidal treatment that will be necessary to improve the over all range conditions. BLM will not actively pursue treatments on this allotment due to its small size and isolation from other BLM parcels, but the lessee will work with Moffat County to implement necessary treatments. Any treatment on BLM land will require BLM approval through a future action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

Yes. The Proposed Action would have no disproportionate impacts on minority populations or low income communities per Executive Order (EO) 12898 and would not adversely impact migratory birds per EO 13186.

No new threatened or endangered plant or animal species have been identified on the North Big Bottom Allotment #04068. Data reaffirms that the RMP identified all resource concerns for the allotment.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the Proposed Action. Impacts to all resources were analyzed.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes. Direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action are unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents. While voluntary non-use on this allotment is not specifically addressed, the RMP does specifically require management actions to improve or maintain the health of the forage resource.

The Proposed Action would provide for at least the minimum legal requirements for cultural resources management and protection and would generally result in benefits through cultural resource data acquisition resulting from required cultural resource survey work.

Previously identified sites and new sites recorded and evaluated as eligible and/or need data sites during a Class III survey will need to be monitored. Initial recordation of new sites and reevaluation of the known sites will establish the current condition of the resource and help in developing a monitoring plan for all of these sites. Some sites will have to be monitored more often than others. Sites that are found to be impacted by grazing activities will need physical protection or other mitigative measures developed (see Attachment 4).

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. Cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action would remain unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents. No additional activities have been implemented in the North Big Bottom Allotment #04068 which would change the impacts resulting from the Proposed Action.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Extensive public outreach through scoping and involvement of the public and other agencies occurred during the development of the RMP/EIS. This Proposed Action was included in the development of the RMP/EIS.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title	Resource	Initials	Date
Ole Olsen	Natural Resource Specialist	Air Quality, Floodplains Prime/Unique Farmlands, Water Quality – Surface	OO	4/20/06
Hal Keesling	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	HSK	4/11/06
Louise McMinn	Realty Specialist	Environmental Justice	LM	4/12/06
Duane Johnson	Environmental Coord. NEPA	Hazardous Materials	DJ	4/24/06
Curtis Bryan	Rangeland Management Spec.	Invasive Non-native Species	CJB	4/21/06
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Spec.	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	JHS	4/13/06
Ausmus/Novotny	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	TN	4/21/06
Fred Conrath	Petroleum Geologist	Water Quality - Ground	FWC	4/11/06
Ole Olsen	Natural Resource Specialist	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	OO	4/20/06
Jim McBrayer	Recreation Specialist	WSA, W&S Rivers	JDM	4/11/06
Standards				
Ole Olsen	Natural Resource Specialist	Riparian Systems	OO	4/20/06
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Spec.	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	JHS	4/13/06
Ausmus/Novotny	Wildlife Biologist	Animal, T&E Animal	TN	4/21/06
Ole Olsen	Natural Resource Specialist	Water Quality, Upland Soils	OO	4/20/06

Land Health Assessment

This action has been reviewed for conformance with the BLM's Public Land Health Standards adopted February 12, 1997. This action will not adversely affect achievement of the Public Land Health Standards. Standard Assessment was conducted on August 8, 2005 by a wildlife biologist and a rangeland management specialist.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist_____ Date_____

Signature of NEPA Coordinator_____ Date_____

Signature of the Authorizing Official_____ Date_____

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

Attachment 2
CO-100-2006-062 DNA
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Standard Terms and Conditions

- 1) Grazing permit or lease terms and conditions and the fees charged for grazing use are established in accordance with the provisions of the grazing regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
- 2) They are subject to cancellation, in whole or in part, at any time because of:
 - a. Noncompliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations;
 - b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or a part of the property upon which it is based;
 - c. A transfer of grazing preference by the permittee/lessee to another party;
 - d. A decrease in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the allotment(s) described;
 - e. Repeated willful unauthorized grazing use;
 - f. Loss of qualifications to hold a permit or lease.
- 3) They are subject to the terms and conditions of allotment management plans if such plans have been prepared. Allotment management plans **MUST** be incorporated in permits and leases when completed.
- 4) Those holding permits or leases **MUST** own or control and be responsible for the management of livestock authorized to graze.
- 5) The authorized officer may require counting and/or additional or special marking or tagging of the livestock authorized to graze.
- 6) The permittee's/lessee's grazing case file is available for public inspection as required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 7) Grazing permits or leases are subject to the nondiscrimination clauses set forth in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1964, as amended. A copy of this order may be obtained from the authorized officer.
- 8) Livestock grazing use that is different from that authorized by a permit or lease **MUST** be applied for prior to the grazing period and **MUST** be filed with and approved by the authorized officer before grazing use can be made.
- 9) Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become a part of the grazing permit or lease. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in the payment of amounts due, including settlement for unauthorized use.
- 10) Grazing fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and **MUST** be paid in full within 15 days of the due date, except as otherwise provided in the grazing

permit or lease. If payment is not made within that time frame, a late fee (the greater of \$25 or 10 percent of the amount owed but not more than \$250) will be assessed.

- 11) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner, after his/her election of appointment, or either before or after he/she has qualified, and during his/her continuance in office, and no officer, agent, or employee of the Department of Interior, other than members of Advisory committees appointed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1) and Sections 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) shall be admitted to any share or part in a permit or lease, or derive any benefit to arise therefrom; and the provision of Section 3741 Revised Statute (41 U.S.C. 22), 18 U.S.C. Sections 431-433, and 43 CFR Part 7, enter into and form a part of a grazing permit or lease, so far as the same may be applicable.

Common Terms and Conditions

- A) Grazing use will not be authorized in excess of the amount of specified grazing use (AUM number) for each allotment. Numbers of livestock annually authorized in the allotment(s) may be more or less than the number listed on the permit/lease within the grazing use periods as long as the amount of specified grazing use is not exceeded.
- B) Unless there is a specific term and condition addressing utilization, the intensity of grazing use will insure that no more than 50% of the key grass species and 40% of the key browse species current years growth, by weight, is utilized at the end of the grazing season for winter allotments and the end of the growing season for allotments used during the growing season. Application of these terms needs to recognize recurring livestock management that includes opportunity for regrowth, opportunity for spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.
- C) Failure to maintain range improvements to BLM standards in accordance with signed cooperative agreements and/or range improvement permits may result in the suspension of the annual grazing authorization, cancellation of the cooperative agreement or range improvement permit, and/or the eventual cancellation of this permit/lease.
- D) Storing or feeding supplemental forage on public lands other than salt or minerals must have prior approval. Forage to be fed or stored on public lands must be certified noxious weed-free. Salt and/or other mineral supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter mile from water sources or in such a manner as to promote even livestock distribution in the allotment or pasture.

- E) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any allotment activities or grazing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days the authorized officer will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.

If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during allotment activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best options for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

- F) No hazardous materials/hazardous or solid waste/trash shall be disposed of on public lands. If a release does occur, it shall immediately be reported to this office at (970) 826-5000.
- G) The permittee/lessee shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM and its agents for the orderly management and protection of public lands.
- H) Application of a chemical or release of pathogens or insects on public lands must be approved by the authorized officer.
- I) The terms and conditions of this permit/lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.

**ATTACHMENT #3
CO-100-2006-062 DNA
Standards and Assessments*
Grazing Allotment #04068, North Big Bottom.**

STANDARD 1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

Currently this standard is met for the South Big Bottom Allotment. Upland soil infiltration and permeability rates are appropriate for the gentle slopes found on the public land tract within this allotment. Surface soil characteristics that were observed in August 2005 (Standards Assessment) indicated that stable surface soils were characteristic of the site overall. The vegetative cover that is present is sufficient to disperse hydrologic influences on the soil surface. However, future plant community could be threatened by the presence of Russian knapweed, which is an invasive noxious weed with allelopathic properties.

STANDARD 2. Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water functions properly and has the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage, habitat, and biodiversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

There are no wetlands or riparian systems on public lands within this allotment. This standard does not apply.

STANDARD 3. Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population levels are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes.

Currently, this allotment is not meeting standard for native plants. The plant community on the allotment consists mainly of a sagebrush/grass community. Dominant cover species include sagebrush, greasewood, Indian ricegrass and western wheat grass. Russian knapweed along with cheat grass was observed throughout the drainage. An abundance of elk and antelope dropping were observed throughout the allotment, which is the cause for the Russian knapweed. Currently the Russian knapweed is localized in the drainage but may be an anticipated threat to upland areas.

The North Big Bottom Allotment provides year round habitat for mule deer and elk including severe winter range habitat. Russian knapweed is creating a serious noxious weed problem within this allotment. Because livestock have not used the allotment during the last eight years, it is believed that elk may be responsible for the spread of this weed within this allotment. The renewal of this grazing lease which includes voluntary non-use until the weeds are controlled;

will not hurt habitat within this allotment. If the weeds are not treated, wildlife habitat will likely continue to decline. Habitats adjacent to this allotment are also likely to be impacted if weeds are not treated. This standard is currently not being met due to noxious weed infestation. The renewal of this lease will not prevent this standard from being met in the future.

STANDARD 4. Special status, threatened, and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy native plant and animal communities.

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered of BLM sensitive plant species on this allotment. For plants, this standard does not apply.

The North Big Bottom Allotment is located near designated critical habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow. The renewal of this grazing permit will not affect this critical habitat because grazing lands within this allotment are fenced and livestock would not be able to access the critical habitat. This allotment also contains potential nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse a BLM special status species. Greater sage-grouse nesting habitat is being impacted by the presence of Russian knapweed, reducing its potential. The renewal of this grazing lease will not have a negative impact on greater sage-grouse nesting habitat because voluntary non-use will be taken until the noxious weeds are controlled. Once these weeds are controlled livestock grazing at the permitted levels is unlikely to degrade nesting habitat within this allotment. The proposed action will not prevent this standard from being met in the future.

STANDARD 5. The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirement set forth under State law as found in 5 CCR 1002-8, as required by Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

The water quality standard is met for the North Big Bottom Allotment. The public land tract within this allotment occurs on slight southeasterly facing slopes. Drainage from the public land tracts will primarily be dispersed overland flow that will drain towards an unnamed ephemeral draw; the draw is a tributary to the Yampa River. The water quality of this segment of the Yampa River and its tributaries fully supports the classified uses designated for these surface waters.

*Standards assessment conducted by a wildlife biologist and a rangeland management specialist on July 26, 2005

Attachment # 4
CO-100-2006-062DNA
Cultural Resource and Native American Concerns
North Big Bottom Allotment #04068

Background Information:

Data developed here was taken from the cultural program project report files, site report files, and base maps kept at the Little Snake Field Office as well as from An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, and An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and Appendix 21 of the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Draft February 1986, Bureau of Land Management, Craig, Colorado District, Little Snake Resource Area. Other data sets, spring and riparian locations, and new data developed in future studies will be used for the GIS maps developed from the Little Snake Field Office Geographic Information System (GIS).

The GIS maps will be developed using USGS and BLM data that show the springs, creeks and rivers, intermittent drainages, riparian areas, and slopes greater than 30 percent. The BLM data that reflects water features potentially present in the project areas is incomplete at this time. This data represents the “best available data” that the BLM office currently has developed at this time. These maps, as well as the cultural programs current understanding of prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns, as reflected in the archaeological record, will be used to guide initial survey efforts to locate past human activity areas in each allotment. These areas will be evaluated for potential livestock concentration impacts. The effort to identify and evaluate cultural resources in association with livestock concentration areas will take place during upcoming field seasons.

The table below is based on the allotment specific analysis developed for each allotment in this DNA. The table shows known cultural resources, eligible and need data, and those that are anticipated to be in each allotment. Fieldwork for the cultural resources on the table will be carried out in current fiscal year or in subsequent years

Allotment Number	Acres Surveyed at a Class III Level ^{1 2}	Acres <u>NOT</u> Surveyed at a Class III Level	Percent -%-Of Allotment Inventoried at a Class III Level	Eligible or Need Data Sites – Known in Allotment (Site Numbers)	Estimated Sites for the Allotment** (Total Number)	Estimated Eligible or Need Data Sites in the Allotment (Number)
04068	none ¹	40	none	None	1.06	.31

(Note: *Acres are derived from GIS allotment maps. 1. BLM only acres or 2. BLM and other acres in the allotment. See allotment specific analysis form. **Estimates of site densities are

based on known inventory data. Estimates represent a minimum figure which may be revised upwards based on future inventory findings.)

Cultural Review Process: Monitoring of the previous years range permit renewal environmental documentation for FY98, FY99, FY2000, FY2001, FY2002, FY2003, FY2004, and FY2005 has been carried out. These reports represent three field seasons of evaluation work on the eligible and need data sites. The fieldwork conducted in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2005 as expected, identified impacts to some of the cultural resources being evaluated. This information is covered in the following reports:

Keesling, Henry S. and Gary D. Collins, Patrick C. Walker
2000 Cultural Resource Evaluation of Known Eligible and Need Data Sites within Range Allotments for Range Permit Renewal EA's FY98 and FY99. Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado. Copy on file at that office.

Collins, Gary D., and Patrick C. Walker, Sam R. Johnson, Henry S. Keesling
2001 **Addendum to Cultural Resource Evaluation of Known Eligible and Need Data Sites within Range Allotments for Range Permit Renewal EAs FY98 and FY99, Range Permit Renewal EA's FY2000 and FY2001.** Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado. Copy on file at that office.

Collins, Gary D. and Ryan J. Nordstrom, Henry S. Keesling
2002 **The Second Addendum to The Cultural and Need Data Sites Within Range Allotments for Range Permit Renewal EA's FY98, FY99, FY00, FY01, and FY02.** Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado. Copy on file at that office.

Collins, Gary D. and Henry S. Keesling
2003 **The Third Addendum to The Cultural and Need Data Sites Within Range Allotments for Range Permit Renewals EA's FY98, FY99.** Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado. Copy on file at that office

Collins, Gary D. and Henry S. Keesling
2005 **The Fourth Addendum Range Permit Renewal FY04 and FY05 to The Cultural Resource Evaluation of Known Eligible and need Data Sites Within Range Allotments for Range Permit Renewal EA's FY00, FY01, FY02, FY03.** BLM 10.27.05. Bureau of Land Management, Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado. Copy of file at that office.

BLM has committed to a ten year phased evaluation being conducted for cultural resources that takes into account identified livestock concentration areas and the cultural resources that are either eligible and/or need data and to carrying out mitigation on cultural resources that require this action. The phased monitor and mitigation approach will mitigate identified adverse effects, significant impacts and data loss, (NHPA Section 106, 36CFR800.9; Archaeological Resource Protection Act 1979; BLM/Colorado SHPO Protocol 1998; NEPA/FLPMA requirements) to an acceptable level.

The GIS mapping and evaluation effort will establish areas that have potential conflicts between livestock and prehistoric cultural resources. The GIS maps will provide a computer generated visual departure point for the proposed cultural fieldwork. GIS maps using USGS and BLM best available data, will be created showing springs, stream course features, riparian areas, and slopes that are greater than 30% slope within the allotment. Current understanding of prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns will be applied to the GIS map review and used to establish prehistoric cultural areas. These potential livestock concentration areas will be evaluated in the field.

Livestock impacts may cause cumulative effects, some of which will be significant, and will cause long-term, irreversible, potentially irretrievable adverse impacts and data loss. However, the phased identification and evaluation fieldwork will identify mitigation measures that will reduce these impacts (NHPA Section 106; 36CFR800.9; Archaeological Resource Protection Act 1979; BLM/Colorado SHPO Protocol 1998; NEPA/FLPMA requirements), to an acceptable level.

Other project specific Class III surveys initiated by the BLM, industry, or ranching will identify previously unrecorded cultural resources within these allotments. Newly identified cultural resources will need to be mitigated in relationship to the proposed project(s). Further, these cultural resources will be incorporated into current and future grazing review efforts to be evaluated and monitored as necessary.

Mitigative Measures: Standard Stipulations for cultural resources are included in Standard Terms and Conditions for the Range Renewal Permit (Attachment 2).

Allotment Specific Stipulations for this DNA.

1. GIS maps based upon stream course features and springs from the 7.5 minute USGS maps and BLM best available riparian/spring data in this office will be used to initially establish evaluation areas for livestock concentrations. Current archaeological understanding of settlement and subsistence patterns for prehistoric cultural resources will be applied to these maps. Identified livestock concentration areas will be field evaluated. Those areas with no livestock impacts but with potential for cultural resources will under go the same Class III survey discussed below. This survey will be conducted documenting archaeological resources which may be impacted if grazing practices change in the future. Identified concentration areas that exhibit livestock impacts will have the following cultural surveys:

Springs, riparian areas, streams or creeks, and intermittent drainage will have a Class III survey in the area of concentration that includes an additional 50 feet around the impacted area. Identified cultural resources will be recorded to include the total site area and mitigation developed.

Springs will have a Class III survey in the area of concentration and include an additional 50 feet around the impacted area. Identified cultural resources will be recorded to include the total site area and mitigation developed.

2. GIS maps showing slope potential, 30% or greater, where rock art and rock shelters are predicted to occur, will be used to initially establish evaluation areas for Class III survey. These areas will be evaluated for livestock concentrations. Identified concentration areas will have the following cultural surveys performed:

Potential rock shelters, rock art areas will be evaluated to see if cultural materials are present. When cultural resources are identified the site will be recorded and appropriate mitigation will be developed.

3. Previously identified sites, table above, and new sites recorded and evaluated as eligible and/or need data during other project specific Class III survey will need to be evaluated as well. Initial recording of new sites and re-evaluation of the known sites will establish current condition of the resource and help in developing a monitoring plan for all sites. Some sites will have to be monitored more often than others. Sites that are impacted by grazing activities will need further monitoring, physical protection or other mitigative measures developed.

4. Site monitoring plans, other mitigation plans, will be developed and provided to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer in accordance with the Protocol (1998) and subsequent programmatic agreements regarding grazing permit renewals.

Conducting Class III survey(s), monitoring, and developing site specific mitigation measures will mitigate the adverse effects, data loss, and significant impacts (NHPA Section 106, 36CFR800.9; Archaeological Resource Protection Act 1979; BLM Colorado and Colorado SHPO Protocol 1998; and NEPA/FLPMA requirements) to an acceptable level.

The Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) agreed with the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado, (BLM) that the BLM could issue its Range Renewal Permits with the proposed Cultural Resource Management actions, monitoring known eligible and need data sites and conducting Class III and/or modified Class III surveys on selected areas of BLM lands within in a ten year time frame (Cultural Matrix Team Meeting 26 January 1999, Colorado BLM State Office.

The Little Snake Field Office will initiate the monitoring of known eligible and need data sites the first field season following the issuing of the permit if possible. This survey will be based upon an accepted, BLM and SHPO, research design that will establish criteria for evaluation of the sites for livestock impacts and any needed mitigation and future monitoring needs.

Name of Specialist and date: Henry S. Keesling Date: 11 April 2006

Native American Concerns: A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Utes Tribal Council, and the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs on 11 January 2006. The letter discussed the range permits that the BLM would be working on in FY06 and FY07. Comments received from the Southern Ute Tribal Council did not foresee any impacts. No other comments were received (Letters on file at the Little Snake Field Office, Craig, Colorado.)

Name of Specialist and date: Henry S. Keesling Date: 11 April 2006